

"The workhorse of the Air Force"

Buckeye Flyer

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Reservist runs marathon for kids through minefield

by Maj. Ted Theopolos
445th AW/Public Affairs

When I received a phone call from Tech. Sgt. Chris Kotsko in Afghanistan stating he was going to run a marathon through a minefield, I thought he was losing it or I was. I asked him several times during our conversation to be sure that's what he said. With phone static and the voice delay because of the long distance, I thought I heard it wrong, but he stated it again. "I'm going to run a marathon through an active minefield."

I asked him to send me an e-mail on the sporting event. He did and the message confirmed what he said the day before on the phone. "The run is in a combat zone and actually goes through an active minefield," stated Kotsko. "But everything around here is a minefield."

Kotsko is a reservist with the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron who volunteered and deployed several months ago to help fight the War on Terrorism. He is currently assigned to the 438th Air Expeditionary Squadron, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

On November 29th at 8:20 a.m., a mine detonating sounded started the 26.2-mile marathon. With the running path cleared of mines and roped off, humvees on either side of the road and a Black Hawk helicopter hovering overhead monitored the race.

"Approximately 120 runners entered the race," said Kotsko. Servicemembers from six different countries competed in the marathon.

"The temperature was in the mid 20's for the morning but moved up quickly with the sun to a pleasant 55 to 60 degrees for

See Marathon on page 6

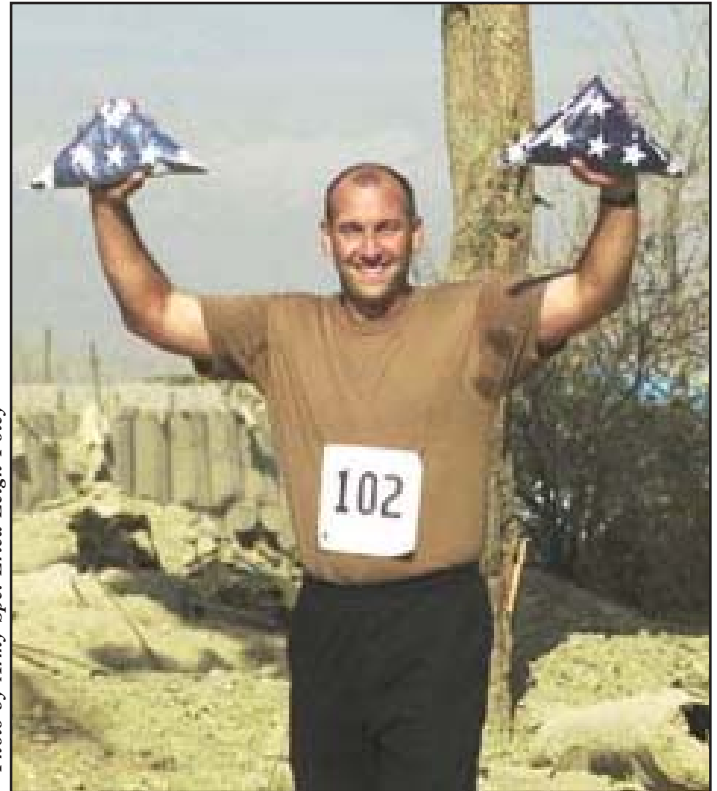


Photo by Army Spc. Erica Leigh Foley

Tech Sgt. Chris Kotsko, a reservist from the 445th Aeromedical Squadron, carries a flag for two children back home in Dayton and Columbus, Ohio during the Minefield Marathon at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Kotsko currently assigned to the 438th Air Expeditionary Squadron.

Going in with backup

Active duty and reservist bring holiday cheer to veterans

by Staff Sgt. Charlie Miller
445th AW/Public Affairs

Seems as though there are a lot of cop shows on television these days. The more one watches, the more police terminology one can pick up. We all have probably heard a police radio message saying, "Officer requires backup." The cop needs help – reinforcements; quick support. Within moments, other law enforcers arrive and the team swings into action.

The Air Force Sergeants Association and the 445th Airlift Wing have adopted that teamwork theme – that show of reinforcement – with the annual Christmas party at the Veteran's Center in Dayton. The idea is simple; give some assistance, some reinforcement to the residents of the VA Center.

The event, which includes lots of Christmas gifts as well as tons of good food, is now in its eighth year. Sponsored by the Air Force Sergeants Association, this marks the sixth year of involvement

for the 445th. The AFA has been involved in events like the annual Christmas party at various VA centers for almost 25 years.

"Oh, man, this is the nicest deal," said 80-year-old resident Charles Huguley. "I enjoy myself more than anybody. This is a great time for all the veterans." Huguley served in the Army during WW II.

"This is my first time here but I will definitely be out again," said Senior Airman Keeva Wilder, newly assigned to the 445th Headquarters Orderly Room. "I met some very interesting people and gained a lot of knowledge. It made me feel good to spend time with them."

See Backup on page 3

New year, new life

by Capt. Chaplain Darren Duncan
445th AW/Protestant Chaplain

London businessman Lindsay Clegg told the story of a warehouse property he was selling. The building had been empty for months and needed repairs. Vandals had damaged the doors, smashed the windows, and strewn trash around the interior.

As he showed a prospective buyer the property, Clegg took pains to say that he would replace the broken windows, bring in a crew to correct any structural damage, and clean out the garbage. "Forget about the repairs," the buyer said. "When I buy this place, I'm going to build something completely different. I don't want the building; I want the site."

Compared with the renovation God has in mind, our efforts to improve our own lives are as trivial as sweeping a warehouse slated for the wrecking ball. When we become God's, the old life is over (2 Corinthians 5:17). He makes all things new. All he wants is the site and the permission to build. As we look upon a new year, allow God freedom with your life and permission to build as He sees fit.

Happy New Year

Another busy year ahead

by Brig. Gen. (Sel) Rusty Moen
445th AW/Commander

Sitting in my office trying to decide what to write for this column now that the publisher has moved the deadline up to today for inputs.... sounds familiar ...just like what happens to us everyday in the airlift business dealing with higher headquarters. Guess we should be use to it by now.



With all the uncertainties that the future might have in store for us I hope that by the time each of you reads this issue of the Buckeye Flyer that you and your families have had a peaceful and happy holiday season.

The wing's calendar for the New Year is already busy. We're "in the bucket" late in the year for AEF support, the annual wing Mobility Exercise is tentatively set for September, numerous mini-deployments scheduled throughout the year for most of our units, and there is no let up in-sight in the flying program.

We continue to progress ahead with all the time-phased action required for the scheduled conversion to C-5 aircraft, and to get reorganized in the new combat wing structure. But all is not work; we will plan on having our wing family picnic this coming summer, something we had to drop because of the ORI this past year.

The Anthrax Vaccine Immunization

Program (AVIP) is back now that vaccine is available again. Anthrax as a bioweapon is a reality as the events of this past year have amply demonstrated. Be assured that: Your health and safety are our #1 concern, that the vaccine is safe and effective, that the threat from anthrax is deadly and real, and that the vaccination offers a layer of protection in addition to antibiotics and other measures that is needed for members of our armed forces.

While the anthrax vaccination program is well established the details for smallpox are being finalized and should be out in early January. There has been no shortage of media attention lately, but remember that almost all of us older adults took the vaccination as kids (required by schools) and have it on our military shot records up through the middle 80's.

I encourage you to read about both vaccines. You can get the information on the web. Anthrax web site is <http://www.anthax.mil> or <http://virtual-flightsurgeons.com>. For information on Smallpox visit <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/training/smallpoxvaccine/reactions>.

Our wing in conjunction with the Air Force Sergeants Association and the Air Force Association, participated in the annual Christmas Party at the Veterans Hospital this past UTA. The veterans love the camaraderie, and it is small way for all of us to say thank you for their service to our country. We will look for more opportunities to help our hospitalized veterans in the coming year; our great group of First Shirts already has some ideas.

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Backup . . .

Continued from front page

"I love to see young airman from the 445th get involved," said Master Sergeant Henry Harlow of the 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, new name for AGS. "They get a chance to see how the veterans are treated. If we can't take care of our veterans, what does that say about us as a country," Harlow questioned.

More than fifty active duty airmen and three dozen reservists, with their families and friends, threw the party for the vets.

"This is one of my favorite activities the AFA does," said Technical Sergeant Christopher Eaton of the 74th Medical Operations Squadron, Wright Patterson Air Force Base Medical Center. "Hopefully, this will bring up the spirits of these guys. It makes me feel good to be giving back to the military side of the community. I don't want these guys to think they are forgotten."

"It's always good to do something for these guys," said Staff Sergeant Martin Saienni also of the 74th. "I'm glad I can give something back. It's good to try and put a smile on their faces."

As always, free haircuts proved to be one of the most popular parts of the Christmas party. "The haircuts are free and the party doesn't cost them anything. I know they really appreciate everything," said Master Sergeant Dennis Williams,



Master Sgts. Dennis Williams (left) and Steve Kalapos (right), both from 445th CES, give a free haircut to VA residents Sammy Crawford and Lance Greengrass during their holiday visit.

(Photos by Staff Sgt. Charlie Miller)

445th Civil Engineers Squadron, who was one of three barbers cutting the residents hair. All three of the barbers were from the 445th CES.

Many of the veterans just enjoyed the time spent with someone in uniform. The vets also talked about sons and daughters and one gentleman recanted the time he met Frank Sinatra. There were countless war stories to be sure.

"The only time I would get to see an airplane was when I played hooky from my clerk-typist duties," said 96 year-old Army Air Corps and WW II veteran Frances Eiben. Frances and some friends were looking over an airplane in a hangar when a supervisor walked in and asked what they were doing. She'd picked up a rag when he first appeared sensing trouble and then told him she was

cleaning the plane. The supervisor said that planes don't get cleaned like that and sent Frances and her friends back to their duty stations.

A few years ago, the AFA folk were able to purchase a Tuskegee Airman G.I. Joe action figure and present it to a resident of the

VA center who was in fact a Tuskegee Airman. As the present was given, the veteran began describing in detail every part of the unique uniform the Tuskegee Airmen wore.

"You just can't put a price on something like that," Harlow said.

This year some of the residents had been moved to a different housing area about 200 yards from the party. Most of the 445th personnel helped transport and deliver over one hundred meals to the residents in their rooms at the new residential facility.

Meanwhile, the active duty members served lunch to other residents in the main dining hall. Systems Go, a quartet from the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Band of Flight, made their annual appearance and played holiday favorites.

Master Sergeant Harlow has long been an AFA member and supporter of the activities combining the active duty and reserve for functions at the VA hospital. He says the benefits of working together to support the veterans are endless.

"The active duty pretty much run cooking and serving the food in the dining room. They also do most of the gift distribution, too. The reservist, the 445th members, take food up to the wards."

Many of the veterans upstairs can't get down to the main dining room due to health concerns so fruit, cookies and other treats are delivered to them.

"We do give away books, clothing, food and more," Harlow said. "But the biggest gift we can give the veterans is our time. Talking with them and spending time with them means so much more than the gifts."



Resident Frances Eiben (left) receives fresh fruit from Master Sgt. William Baker and Staff Sgt. William Donaldson, both from 445th CES, as resident Ellen McCreery looks on.

Run for the embassy: south and central resupply missions

*By Maj. Richard C. Sater
445th AW/ Public Affairs*

Looking for a hot time south of the border? The 445th Airlift Wing might be able to help you out. A unit C-141 heads to sunny, exotic South America nearly twice a month.

Not, however, for sunny, exotic reasons.

Aircrews call 'em "Embassy runs," since the mission is to resupply U.S. Embassies in South and Central America, delivering food, furniture, equipment, you-call-it-we-haul-it. "Run" is apt too, given the frantic rabbit stop-and-go of the itinerary.

Embassies are an important part of U.S. diplomatic relations abroad, providing a kind of clearing house and point-of-contact for Americans in the country for business, politics, or travel. The stuff required to keep the embassies running can't always be procured locally, so it's gotta come from up north.

It's intricate and intriguing business. No two of the missions are ever quite the same.

Take one recent mission, for example, a model of efficiency for a flight covering more than 6,600 miles in four days. And in addition to its assigned purpose of delivering the goods to locations in Ecuador, Peru, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, the flight serves as a triple-trainer as well, with one pilot, one loadmaster, and one flight engineer standing in the fire, learning the ropes or completing “check” rides for proficiency.

This time, the crew (89th Airlift Squadron, mostly) picks up its cargo at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., including perishable goods packed in dry ice, some large appliances, and more, and then heads down to Guayaquil, Ecuador, the first long leg, to unload most of it. Then on to Lima, Peru, to drop some and pick up some. Then San Jose in Costa Rica, and Managua, Nicaragua, for more of the same. And then back to Ohio.

Such missions are not to be undertaken lightly. Consider the daunting logistics and other concerns such as safety. Threat conditions in some locations dictate that a U.S. military aircraft won't stay overnight, which impacts flight planning. Crew duty-day limi-

tations must be factored in as well.

And here's something else. Meat and milk packed in dry ice have a limited shelf-life before the big melt, a critical concern, given the tropical heat in South America. It all has to come together like a graceful mambo. And here's the cool part. It does.

Aircraft commander Capt. Mike Baker – assigned to the 445th's current operations office – gets the balance just right; that's him, under the Air Force Reserve ball cap. He gets respect from the whole gang without having to make much noise about it, because he's figured out how to use his crew-resource management toolkit.

Coordination is key, Baker says, with the "various ground support agencies, with command-and-control elements. We have to have the proper diplomatic clearances for South America. Civil unrest can change our itinerary," he says.

Bottom line, though? "Mission completion," Baker insists.

His team members remain in good spirits throughout. Temporary inconvenience is a fact, so why complain about it? They've traveled together enough; they know just enough about each other to keep a sense of humor even on the longest days.

Long and lean senior pilot Lt. Col. Karl Ludolph (under blue sunglasses for his blue eyes) has been in the 89th AS the longest of anyone on this crew. But he mostly doesn't say much, just watches and nods like someone wise, "being the senior guy," he says with a lazy grin. Good, good.

Capt. Kevin Sullivan is the newest pilot in the 89th. On this trip, his job mostly consists of observing, but that's fine with him. "You learn a lot," he says. "How to file an international flight plan. How to cope with different foreign languages you hear on the radio."

Flight engineer examiner Master Sgt. Bryan Ayers guesses he's got two dozen of these Embassy runs in his pocket already, and he'll take any he can get. "I love it. I've been to nearly every country in South

America, I think," he says.

Ayers converses with local folks at the hotels and restaurants and even the aircraft refuelers or the guys running the forklifts on the ramp. "I like to find out what they think about Americans," he says. "What their perception is of us." And, he says, "I'm trying to improve my Spanish."

Flight engineer Staff Sgt. Anne McNevin does a little of the requisite “mom” thing but – under the watchful eyes of Ayers – she mainly concentrates on acing



Clockwise from top left: flight instructor, forklift training, C-141 arrival, preparing for flight

her check ride. She goes about the business of tracking the temperature, altitude, pressurization, wind speed, fuel usage and more from the panel on the flight deck and doing the pre-takeoff sweep outside the aircraft, checking everything from tires to tail.

"You pick up something new every trip," she says.

Senior Master Sgt. Ricky Smith is the senior loadmaster on the crew, and he may be red-headed but he's no stepchild – as he will readily tell you. He's got the history and the been-there-done-that stories to

back up the encyclopedia of loadmastering he carries inside.

"You can tell the difference between the ones who just want to meet standards and the ones who want to be good," he says of his loadmaster students. He prefers the latter, and he drives the new kids hard because configuring the cargo properly is important.

Second loadmaster Staff Sgt. Larry Unger agrees. "You gotta do the math right," he says; he carries two calculators just in case.

Amn. 1st Class Justin Brothers is still in "student" mode; this trip is rigorous on-the-job training and he likes it that way. "I'm still learning," he says, cheerful. He knows his novice status is temporary.

Technical Sgt. John Guilaum, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, rounds out the team as the crew chief. He's checking and changing oil and hydraulic fluid and overseeing the refueling and dozens of other maintenance-related tasks after the plane lands and before it takes off again.

He's not just along for the ride. "If something breaks, I'm supposed to fix it," he says, grinning. And, chances are, he can. In the wilds of these southern nations, he's the only repair shop around.

Of course things happen. Limiting factors like bad weather or difficult terrain can

delay a flight by a day or two. Sometimes there are short delays with a quick fix. Like, for example, the large forklift that was broken at the Lima airport. A little ingenuity with cargo straps and a pair of small forklifts, and half an hour later, the cargo – helicopter blades, to be returned to Charleston Air Force Base – is strapped securely to the floor of the C-141, ready for takeoff.

Three "Ravens" – specially trained Air Force security forces specialists – also deploy with the aircraft on this trip and most of the Embassy runs. These Ravens, from the 452nd Security Forces Squadron, March Air Reserve Base, Calif., provide force protection for C-141, cargo, and crew, remaining with the aircraft at all times in locations that are

deemed particularly dangerous.

All aboard cite traveling to new places and experiencing new cultures as primary benefits of such travel. Often, however, the exotic the locations only serve to tantalize – a quick look at the terrain surrounding the airstrip during the C-141's landing and take-off might be as much of the country as the crew gets to see.

On this particular trip, there's little time to explore beyond a good meal in Guayaquil and another good one in San Jose. Another day, another travel voucher, another pile of foreign coins for the jar on the dresser.

At least the South and Central America missions have one big advantage to the European or Pacific missions, according to pilot 1st Lt. Bryan Berger. "We're not going east or west. We're traveling north to south, so there's no time-zone changes," he says. No jet-lag. "It's easier on your body."

In spite of the frequent limits set for sightseeing, everyone chooses "see the world" as the biggest perk of the job, and Ayers will admit being "addicted to travel." But exotic destinations (and warm climates in winter) are only "icing on the cake," as McNevin says. The most fun of any trip isn't the destination. It's the getting there.

Long stretches of air time require intense concentration and attention to detail from the pilots and flight engineers. The loadmasters can relax a little, doing most of their labor before takeoff or after landing. In between, people pass the time reading in the dim light, snacking, playing video games on laptop computers, stretching, napping.

But, you know what? It's all flying. "Best decision I ever made," says Brothers of his military career choice.

So 15 – sometimes 16, because there's one passenger for part of the trip and one diplomatic courier for another part – people leave Ohio and travel to Ecuador and Peru and Costa Rica and Nicaragua and deliver approximately 92,000 pounds of Embassy-required stuff and pick up some helicopter blades to drop off in Charleston and make it back to Wright-Patterson just after midnight, four days and six-and-something-thousand miles later and it all works.

"You can't teach that!" Baker says with enough enthusiasm for all of our Americas. "It's awesome."



From top left: Staff Sgt. Anne McNevin conducts a pre-inspection. Airman 1st Class Justin Brothers guides the planes into the back of the aircraft to unload cargo. The plane waits takeoff in Managua, Nicaragua. Capt. Mike Baker is ready for take-off. (Photos by Maj. Richard Sater)

Marathon

Continued from front page



the race,” said Kotsko.

The reservist wasn’t doing the race to prove to himself he could do it, he was doing it for two children, Dan from Dayton and Nathan from Columbus. Both children are afflicted or in remission from lymphoma or leukemia. The Lymphoma and Leukemia Society Team in Training chose these two kids as heroes.

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s mission is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease and myeloma, and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Using Team in Training program helps with fund-raising to reach their goals.

Kotsko knows what these kids are going through for treatment of the disease and how devastating it can be on the body.

“I am a survivor of lymphoma that was diagnosed in October of 1998,” said Kotsko. “I completed treatment in May of 1999.”

The course was difficult for most runners with the rough terrain and with no time to train made it more of a challenging race.

“It was very dusty at times and the ground was very uneven,” said Kotsko. “Your running shoes and clothes were limited to what you had brought from the states. I had to purchase some insoles because my shoes were not in the best of shape.”

It was a hard race stated the sergeant. “There was not bands, cheering crowds or people lining the streets to edge you on,” said Kotsko.

“On my last lap I carried two U.S. flags dedicated to Dan and Nathan who are fighting cancer,” said Kotsko. “I will present the flag, a certificate and shirt to the kids when I get back to the states.”

The sergeant was one of 70 that finished the race. 2nd Lt. Ray Youngs won first place, from the 277th Military Police Company at Fort Bragg, N.C. who finished the marathon in 3 hours and 1 minute.

When asked why he did the grueling race the sergeant proudly stated, “I choose to do this being a survivor of lymphoma myself, and I thought it would be good for the kids, the military and for the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society. (AFPN help contribute to this story)

Unexpected visitor delights crew

Visit turned into something special

*by Maj. Ted Theopolos
445th AW/Public Affairs*

A routine flight to Scott AFB, Ill., on December 4th turned into something special for the crew and guest aboard the Hanoi Taxi. The local training mission was to transport French dignitaries, a special event in itself, back to Wright-Patterson AFB.

Since the aircraft was going to be on the ground for a couple of hours, Brig. Gen. (select) Rusty Moen,

445th Airlift Wing commander, informed the base in advance that when the aircraft arrives, it would be open for the base public to tour.

At Scott, snow was accumulating on the ground and with mild to heavy flurries in the air, not many ventured out to see the historic C-141 aircraft.

The weather didn’t stop some though. General John W. Handy, Air Mobility Command commander, visited the historic aircraft. Soon other visitors started to filter in, two or three at a time. But for one visitor, it was something special.

Retired Army Lt. Col. Richard Anshus of O’Fallon, Ill., came out to see the aircraft. A former POW read the aircraft was coming to Scott from an add in the Command Post, Scott’s base paper, stating the aircraft was coming and be open to the base public. Anshus contacted the base public affairs office and they agreed to escort him out to the aircraft.

As the retired colonel walked through the cargo compartment of the aircraft, he looked at the photos, signs and plaques on the walls. He stops at one of the photos with an intensive look on his face.

“That’s me, right there,” stated Anshus. It was a framed photo of a group of POWs preparing to board a plane in Vietnam.

His excitement soon drew a crowd towards him as he explained the events of that day.

Master Sgt. Jeff Wittman, crew chief for the Hanoi Taxi, verified Anshus was a POW from Hanoi from a flight manifest book. The book listed POWs that participated in Operation Homecoming.

Anshus was a POW for 751 days in Hanoi. At the age of 23, he was a helicopter pilot on a reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam when he was shot down in March 1971. He was wounded and captured. Anshus remained captive until March 27, 1973 when he was freed from Hanoi, North Vietnam.

After verification that Anshus was a POW, he was asked by Wittman to sign the panel joining 64 other signatures of POWs who has signed. A hard see-through cover that protects the signatures had to be removed before Anshus could sign the panel. Wittman handed Anshus a pen to add his signature, date of capture and date of release, or birth date as some call it, in front of approximately 25 on-seers.

“I wasn’t expecting a POW to be here, but this is great,” said Wittman. “Thank you for your service and welcome home,” he told Anshus.

Others also shook the POWs hand and thanked him for his service. Anshus posed for several photos with some of the visitors and crew on the aircraft before he departed.



A former POW, retired Army Lt. Col. Richard Anshus, signs the panel while a crowd looks on.
(Photo by Maj. Ted Theopolos)

Promotions

Congratulations to the following personnel, recently promoted to the rank indicated.

Airman

AMN Evelyn Pellot, 445 OSS

Senior Airman

SrA. Daniel Payne, Jr., 445 MSS

First Lieutenant

1st. Lt. Douglas Hayes, 89 AS

Reenlistments

Congratulations to the following 445th AW members who recently re-enlisted in the Reserve.

SSgt. Orvil Baker, 445 CES
 SSgt. Jeffrey Graham, 445 MOS
 SSgt. James Hartsell, 87 APS
 SSgt. Brian Teates, 445 MOS
 SSgt. David Winslow, 445 SFS
 TSgt. Robin Beer, 445 SFS
 TSgt. Jason Besser, 445 MXS
 TSgt. Martin Borgerding, 445 AMS
 TSgt. Kerry Brock, 445 AES

TSgt. Jeffrey Brooks, 445 SFS
 TSgt. Dwight Brown, 445 ASTS
 TSgt. David Crabtree, 87 APS
 TSgt. Timothy Elder, 445 LSS
 TSgt. Donald Ellars, 87 APS
 TSgt. Jacquelyn Griffin, 445 MSS
 TSgt. Russle King, 356 AS
 TSgt. Michael Lopez, 445 CLSS
 TSgt. Randall Lynch, 89 AS
 TSgt. Terry Neblett, 87 APS
 TSgt. Steven Palsgrove, 445 OSS
 TSgt. Scott Phillips, 445 SFS
 TSgt. Dennis Popik, 445 MXS
 TSgt. David White, 89 AS
 TSgt. James Williamson, 87 APS
 MSgt. Will Adams, 445 LSS
 MSgt. Steven Parker, 89 AS
 MSgt. Thomas Sites, 445 AES
 MSgt. Patricia Wortham, 445 MSS
 SMSgt. William Arehart, Jr., 445 SFS
 SMSgt. Michael Campbell, 87 APS
 SMSgt. John Johnston, Jr., 356 AS
 CMSgt. John Frederick, 445 CES
 CMSgt. Patrick Hogenbirk, 445 CES
 CMSgt. Michael Lyons, 87 APS

Anthrax . . . Vaccination to resume

**Capt. Michael A. Cooper, BSC
445th AMDS**

Air Force officials recently announced the resumption of the Anthrax Vaccination Immunization Program (AVIP). At the present time, plans call for giving the vaccine to persons being deployed to areas considered high risk for 15 days or longer. The 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron will provide the vaccine on the prescribed six dose schedule when it becomes available.

This program is an essential force protection tool against the deadly anthrax bacteria. The events following September 11th, 2001 in which 5 people died from anthrax infection were shocking reminders of the threat our forces face. Anthrax, prepared and dispersed under optimal conditions could result in thousands of deaths and would quickly overwhelm our

medical resources. Untreated, inhaled anthrax would kill nearly 100 percent of those infected. Antibiotics are only effective when started very early in the course of infection and weaponized anthrax is likely to be antibiotic resistant. Fortunately, we have a safe and effective vaccine which has been licensed and in use for over 30 years. This vaccine is effective against naturally occurring and weaponized strains of anthrax.

As military health care providers, your health and safety are our first concern. The vaccine is safe and effective. The threat from anthrax is deadly and real. Vaccination offers a layer of protection in addition to antibiotics and other measures that are needed for individuals deploying to high risk areas. Contact your unit Health Monitor for more information about the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program.

2003 Reserve Pay for Four Drills

		Years of Service																
		Under 2	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 5	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 24	Over 26	
Pay Grade	O-7	828.12	866.56	884.40	898.56	924.12	949.84	978.72	1007.92	1037.20	1129.16	1206.84	1286.84	1306.84	1326.84	1346.84	1366.84	
	O-6	613.76	674.28	718.52	718.52	721.28	752.16	756.28	756.28	799.28	875.24	919.84	964.44	989.80	1015.48	1041.32	1067.32	
	O-5	511.68	576.40	616.32	623.80	648.64	663.60	696.36	720.40	751.40	798.92	821.56	843.88	869.28	894.28	919.28	944.28	
	O-4	441.48	511.04	545.16	552.76	584.40	618.36	660.60	693.52	716.36	729.48	737.12	737.12	737.12	737.12	737.12	737.12	
	O-3	388.16	440.04	474.96	517.80	542.60	569.80	587.44	616.44	631.48	631.48	631.48	631.48	631.48	631.48	631.48	631.48	
	O-2	335.36	381.96	439.92	454.76	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	
	O-1	291.16	303.00	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	
	O-1E				517.80	542.60	569.80	587.44	616.44	640.84	654.80	673.92	673.92	673.92	673.92	673.92	673.92	
	O-2E				454.76	464.16	478.92	503.84	513.12	537.48	537.48	537.48	537.48	537.48	537.48	537.48	537.48	
	O-3E				366.24	391.16	405.60	420.36	434.88	454.76	454.76	454.76	454.76	454.76	454.76	454.76	454.76	
	E-9								675.24	686.00	699.60	715.60	731.64	757.44	779.24	800.84	824.44	848.44
	E-8						396.72	408.16	418.84	431.68	445.60	470.68	483.40	505.00	517.00	546.56		
	E-7		275.80	301.04	312.52	323.76	335.52	355.72	367.12	378.44	394.72	408.84	418.48	424.36	444.20	457.04	489.52	
	E-6		236.08	259.68	271.16	282.28	293.88	310.12	330.32	341.64	351.56	355.08	361.28	361.28	361.28	361.28	361.28	
E-5		216.72	231.16	242.32	251.60	261.60	286.92	298.24	308.44	308.44	308.44	308.44	308.44	308.44	308.44	308.44		
E-4		200.36	210.64	222.04	233.24	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20		
E-3		180.92	192.28	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84		
E-2		172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00		
E-1>4		153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44		
E-1 with less than 4 months:		141.96																

Reservists will receive a drill-pay increase ranging from 1.2 percent to 8.2 percent, effective Jan. 1. Source: Defense Authorization

Wing notes

Sick call

If a Reserve member becomes ill or requires a medical appointment with active duty (74 MDG) while they are on orders, they should call the WHITE TEAM at the Primary Care Clinic (257-9700). This procedure is for Monday - Friday only. On weekends, the member should report to the Emergency Room if treatment becomes necessary.



For purposes of TRICARE, all 445th AW members have been "assigned" to the WHITE TEAM. Contacting the WHITE TEAM at 257-9700 should allow the Reserve member to get an appointment to take care of their acute needs.

Remember, ensure you take proof of duty status (i.e., copy of orders, 40A, etc.) when reporting to the 74 MDG for treatment.

If you encounter problems while attempting to get an appointment, contact the AMDS at 75200 for assistance.

In memory of

Tech. Sgt. Steven Sherlock, an Air Reserve Technician with the 445th Maintenance Squadron, Fuels Systems Repair Shop, passed away unexpectedly in his home on December 18th from heart problems. Sherlock was 48 yrs. old. He is survived by two sons, John and Donny.

Sherlock served 3 years active duty and 21 years in the Air Force Reserve.

Sherlock will be missed by all who knew him.

Gate hours

Effective Jan. 3rd, the new gate hours will take effect. Gate 26C will be open on Saturday and Sunday of both UTAs during the following hours:

0600-0730

1030-1330

1530-1700

If a group or squadron needs the gate open other than posted above, contact the 445th SFS at 257-0062.

445th Airlift Wing
5514 McCormick Road
Wright-Patterson AFB OH
45433-5113



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Activated reservists -- *get tax help; aid for others on the way*

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Unless on active duty during tax preparation time, Air Force reservists are not entitled to Air Force tax assistance through base legal offices.

To help reservists who may have been on active duty during 2002 and to assist other taxpayers in Air Force Reserve Command, the AFRC Staff Judge Advocate is preparing articles about military allowances for activated reservists, as well as general information about filing taxes. The articles should appear in AFRC News Service in January 2003, at the start of the 2002 tax preparation period.

Due to manning constraints and regulatory restrictions on legal assistance, AFRC installation and wing legal offices do not offer tax preparation and filing services to reservists in an inactive status. However, unit reservists participating in an inactive status are entitled to mission-related legal assistance – wills and powers of attorney.

Reserve legal assistance officers should be able to address specific tax questions from members on active duty as part of their legal assistance program. These officers should also be able to direct activated military members to the closest active-duty

location offering full tax preparation services. Tax preparation centers are found on most active-duty military installations and normally operate from late January to April of each year.

Reservists on active duty should present their identification cards and orders to the personnel at the tax center to show their entitlement to the service. The military services operate tax centers on installations, ships at sea and at deployed units throughout the world.

Commanders support the program by detailing service members to prepare returns and by providing space and equipment for tax centers. The Internal Revenue Service supports these efforts by providing tax preparation training to service members at sites around the world.

This combined DOD/IRS effort ensures that service members receive free tax assistance from well-trained and equipped military tax preparers. Overall, service tax programs save service members and their families more than \$57 million. And, with electronic filing and direct deposit, service members often receive refunds in less than a week.

Last year, personnel at military service tax centers prepared and electronically filed more than 400,000 federal tax returns and 91,000 state returns. This made the military tax program the largest non-commercial filer of electronic tax returns. The services also prepared more than 240,000 traditional (paper) federal and state returns. (AFRC News Service)

